

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:  
an open top defined by an annular rim;  
a base defining a lowermost surface of the container; and  
a sidewall extending between the top and the base, the sidewall having an inner surface and an outer surface, the sidewall comprising a recess and an annular shoulder located between the recess and the base, the annular shoulder comprising an arched portion, the annular shoulder forming an inner stacking surface on the inner surface of the sidewall and the arched portion forming a raised ledge on the inner stacking surface, wherein the base of a second identical container rests upon the inner stacking surface and the raised ledge sits within the arched portion of the second identical container when the second identical container is nested upon the container.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original) The container of Claim 1 wherein the annular shoulder further comprises a means for stabilizing the container when the container is held by a user.
5. (Original) The container of Claim 1 wherein the recess terminates at the annular shoulder.
6. (Original) The container of Claim 1 wherein the sidewall further comprises an annular rib.
7. (Original) The container of Claim 1 wherein the sidewall further comprises multiple annular ribs, at least one of the annular ribs comprising a curved portion aligned with the recess.
8. (Original) The container of Claim 1 wherein the recess is longitudinal and arcuately formed.
9. (Original) The container of Claim 1 further comprising a measurably improved strength to weight ratio over a substantially similar sidewall having no recesses.
10. (Original) The container of Claim 1 further comprising an improved strength to weight ratio of at least 3% over a substantially similar sidewall having no recesses.

11. (Original) The container of Claim 1 further comprising an improved strength to weight ratio of at least 20% over a substantially similar sidewall having no recesses.
12. (Original) The container of Claim 1 further comprising an improved strength to weight ratio of at least 40% over a substantially similar sidewall having no recesses.
13. (Original) The container of Claim 1 wherein the sidewall further comprises a lower portion extending between the annular shoulder and the base, the lower portion comprising a beveled portion aligned with the recess.
14. (Original) The container of Claim 1 wherein the sidewall further comprises a lower portion extending between the annular shoulder and the base, the lower portion comprising a beveled portion aligned with the arched portion.
15. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:
  - an open top defined by an annular rim;
  - a base; and
  - a sidewall extending between the top and the base, the sidewall comprising an arcuately formed longitudinal recess and a stacking shoulder, the arcuately formed longitudinal recess having an upper end portion having a width that is greater than a width at an intermediate portion of the recess.
16. (Original) The container of Claim 15 wherein the sidewall tapers outward between the stacking shoulder and the base and the sidewall tapers outward between the stacking shoulder and the top.
17. (Original) The container of Claim 15 wherein the sidewall tapers inward between the stacking shoulder and the base and the sidewall tapers inward between the stacking shoulder and the top.
18. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:
  - an open top defined by an annular rim;
  - a base defined by a bottom horizontal surface of the container; and
  - a sidewall extending between the top and the base, the sidewall comprising a number of recesses, an annular shoulder located between the recesses and the base, and a lower portion extending between the annular shoulder and the base, the lower portion comprising a number of

beveled portions equal to the number of recesses, wherein each beveled portion defines a beveled edge on the base;

wherein the number of recesses is in the range of from 1 to 20.

19. (Original) The container of Claim 18 wherein the number of recesses is in the range of from 2 to 12.

20. (Original) The container of Claim 18 wherein the recesses terminate at the annular shoulder

21. (Currently Amended) The container of Claim 18 wherein ~~the lower portion further comprises a number of beveled portions equal to the number of recesses,~~ each beveled portion is aligned with one of the number of recesses.

22. (Original) The container of Claim 18 wherein the lower portion, the annular shoulder, and the base are substantially elliptical.

23. (Original) The container of Claim 18 wherein the sidewall further comprises an annular rib, the annular rib comprising a number of curved portions equal to the number of recesses, each curved portion aligned with one of the number of recesses.

24. (Original) The container of Claim 18 wherein the recess is longitudinal and arcuately formed.

25. (Original) The container of Claim 18 further comprising a means for ensuring proper nesting of the container with a second identical container.

26. (Original) The container of Claim 18 wherein the annular shoulder further comprises a means for stabilizing the container when the container is held by a user.

27. (Original) The container of Claim 18 further comprising a measurably improved strength to weight ratio over a substantially similar sidewall having no recesses.

28. (Original) The container of Claim 18 further comprising an improved strength to weight ratio of at least 4% over a substantially similar sidewall having no recesses.

29. (Original) The container of Claim 18 further comprising an improved strength to weight ratio of at least 20% over a substantially similar sidewall having no recesses.

30. (Original) The container of Claim 18 further comprising an improved strength to weight ratio of at least 40% over a substantially similar sidewall having no recesses.

31. (Original) The container of Claim 18 wherein the sidewall tapers outward between the annular shoulder and the base and the sidewall tapers outward between the annular shoulder and the top.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Original) A container comprising:

an open top defined by an annular rim;

a substantially circular base; and

a sidewall extending between the top and the base, the sidewall comprising two concave, arcuately formed, longitudinal recesses, several annular ribs, an annular shoulder located between the longitudinal recesses and the base, and a lower portion extending between the annular shoulder and the base, the longitudinal recesses terminating at the annular shoulder, the annular shoulder comprising two arched portions aligned with the longitudinal recesses, and the lower portion comprising two beveled portions aligned with the longitudinal recesses.

44. (New) A container comprising:

an open top defined by an annular rim;

a substantially planar base defining a lowermost surface of the container; and

a sidewall extending between the top and the base and having a mid-height halfway between the top and the base, the sidewall comprising:

an annular shoulder located below the mid-height of the sidewall, the shoulder having an arched portion,

a longitudinal recess extending upward from the annular shoulder past the mid-height of the sidewall, and

a lower portion extending between the annular shoulder and the base, the lower portion having a beveled portion extending upward from the base to the arched portion of the shoulder, wherein the beveled portion is immediately adjacent and below the arched portion.

45. (New) The container of Claim 44, wherein the beveled portion is concavely curved.
46. (New) The container of Claim 44, wherein the beveled portion and the arched portion are aligned with the longitudinal recess.